Times-Virginian

IN THE HEART OF VIRGINIA'S DARK TOBACCO BELT

Appomattox, Va.

ESTABLISHED IN 1892

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Basic Study in Human Nature

There are many readers of the Times-Virginian in Appomattox who constantly resolve to improve their minds by reading intellingently written books, in the hope that they will become better equipped to understand the many issues that crowd upon them as they try to keep pace with this modern world.

This impulse is good, and should be acted upon, but, often, in our search of the new, we have a tendency to overlook the value of the old.

For this reason, we would remind our readers, that, under all modern issues, however expressed, human nature asserts itself much the same as it did in the past ages. Therefore, the basic study for us is human nature and the solution for modern troubles is improved human beings.

By the general consent of almost all of mankind, the Bible has long been recognized at pre-eminent in the field of human nature, possessing the fundamental guides to improving human beings. It might be a good idea then, for all of us to give a little more diligent study to the great truths that are set out in the Book of Books.

Facing 1961

Every person should take stock of his progress toward some goal occasionally. At the beginning of a new year is the customary time.

The first thing one should consider is his goal in life. Where are you going? Are you helping others? Are you satisfied with the life you are living?

Second, after setting your goal comes the hard part. You must discipline yourself to live by the resolutions which will make you the person you would like to be.

The year 1961 might contain many pitfalls. A recession will probably be felt by many of us. The threat from the communist world is the gravest threat our country has faced since the Revolution. This will worry many of us — especially those in the armed services and with members of their family in the service.

But, all-in-all, 1961 will come and go, and most of us will survie. At the end of the year, it would be nice to look back and feel that your goal had been achieved. To be able to do that you must steel your resolution now, and set your standards for conduct and business, and stick to them.

The Long Winter Pull

With the arrival of January we are now beginning the long winter pull. The holidays are over and the two coldest months of the year are ahead of us. The young people are back in school and business takes over.

Even in sports there is a lull. True basketball and hockey and other sports are in the news, but baseball and football are out of it. The lull is obvious — as a look at the sports pages will soon confirm.

For the golfer the months of January and February are grim. For the fisherman, they are sometimes the worst of the year.. For the outdoor sportsmen, in general, these are lean months.

All of which should convince you to spend the time you will have in the winter pull to better yourself, broaden your intellectual background. You will have long, cold nights that will be good reading. Since you shouldn't watch television over 2½ hours a night (children 1½), spend some of that time improving your mind and adding to your knowledge and philosophy.

At the end of the road, then there is an emptiness and a hollowness, which leaves the personality and the philosophy bankrupt. So, then, in the long winter pull, until the outdoors beckon again, resolve to read some good books, to do some creative work and thinking and to accomplish something in the way of better rounding out your personality and intellect.

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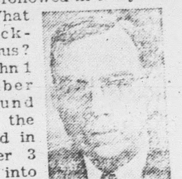
Bible Material: John 3.
Devotional Reading: Luke 19:1-10.

Why Christ Came

Lesson for January 15, 1961

WHEN we speak of some one's background, we usually mean his boyhood home, his family for perhaps generations back, his schooling, all the influences that made him what he is, or at least got him started in the direction which he has followed in the years since then. What was the background of Jesus? Readers of John 1 will remember the background in Eternity, the background in God. Chapter 3 goes farther into this. Suppose it is true that Christ was the Son of God, the eternal "Word;" this still leaves us asking, but why did the Word "become flesh," become a human being? The great answer to that question is in John 3:16: God's love for the world.



Dr. Foreman

The Love of God

If any one asks why God should love the world, we can only say that it is God's nature to love. Yet isn't the world too bad for God to love? Well, it is; so that the love of God is in itself the fundamental miracle beside which all other miracles are small things. This word "world" is used by writers in the New Testament, and by John himself, in various ways. It can mean the universe, the physical world: or it can mean all that is evil and opposite to God; or it can mean the race of mankind. This last is the meaning in John 3:16, no doubt.

The reader will want to ponder over the stupendous truth that God loves the world. (Yes, still in the 20th century with all its bloody crimes. If it is true only that God once-upon-a-time loved the world but not now, then indeed we are lost.) But let us ask another question: Is God like a helpless mother reading about her wayward son in the crime news, or is he like a lazy grandfather watching the children getting into mischief and thinking only "Those are cute kids!" — or like an adoring bride, "Whatever my darling boy does is all right with me?" No, God's love is interwoven with his wisdom and his holiness. His love for the world makes him do something for the world: in one tremendous word, to save it.

The Life of God

Take the word, the idea, the fact, of "save" and "salvation" and "savior" out of the Christian religion and you have nothing left. This word "save" is explained in various ways in the New Testament. John's favorite and basic explanation is in another short but dynamic word: LIFE. God loves the world—that is, the people in the world—so that he sends his only Son; but beyond that sending is a hope and a promise: that "whosoever believes in him should have eternal life." This eternal life is not simply a life that persists through death. Jean Sartre has written a play "No Exit" in which the three characters are all dead men, that is, they have died, but they still exist. The horrible thing, as each of them learns, is they cannot really die, they are immortal. Each wants to kill the others —but it cannot be done. Each wishes to commit suicide; but that cannot be done either. Merely endless life would be a hellish thing.

The Choice of Man

Nothing less than eternal life is God's gift, God's offer, to man. But God does not bestow this automatically on all men. No one is shut out from it. But there is a fateful clause and condition. It is not said, God sent his Son so that everybody would have eternal life. It is said rather, God sent his Son so that whoever believes in him should have eternal life. God, creator of the race of man, has very strangely made man to be such a creature that he can say No to God himself. It is possible for men to refuse God's gift of life. It is possible to turn one's back on Jesus, whether in sorrow (like the rich young ruler) or in anger (like the Pharisees). But why — some one may say—why must I believe in Jesus? That is one of the great points of John's Gospel. Jesus is, so to speak, the translation of God into the language of man. To believe in Jesus is to believe in God. God has no better way of making himself known than in Jesus.

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A man in office is usually appreciated, if at all, when he gets out of office.

News Report From Washington

Washington, D. C. — The crisis in Laos was the latest in a series of Chinese - sponsored aggressions which calls the United States' hand indirectly. The technique is the same which was used so successfully for a while by Adolph Hitler.

Hitler had National Socialists parties organized in such states as Austria and Czechoslovakia and used them to do the things, quite often, he did not want Germany to do openly. The Chinese have the same plays working for them.

Laos was invaded, according to the most reliable sources, by communist-prepared and trained forces and because the United States and other democratic powers had guaranteed its freedom, it was up to us, the English and the French, to fight or negotiate.

France, tied down in Algeria, is too weak and tired to fight. England wanted to hold conferences and negotiate. President Eisenhower was tempted to be tough and stand back of our gurantee to Laos.

That was the situation facing the outgoing President as he prepared to vacate his office in favor of a sucessor. The Chinese Reds have gobbled up part of India's border area. They tried to grab South Korea but force stopped them there.

The obvious feeling among Chineses Reds is that the United States will not go to war over Laos at a time of changing administrations—despite the guarantee. Our "out" is that rival factions began fighting in Laos long ago and that the Chinese Reds are not directly involved. It is supposed to be a revolution, communist-style, that is.

What worries some American officials is the loss of face inevitable with backdowns in Asia. Yet few Americans want to fight in Laos—it is generally conceded. The crisis strikes Washington at a delicate time and President-elect Kennedy is certain to inherit an explosive situation in the Far East.

SEATO, which pledged to guarantee Laos' independence, is squarely on the spot. And it appears that Red China has once more flung down the challenge for all to see: if we want to save Laos (gambling that these people will be of value to us, and support democracy in the future) we can fight; otherwise the communist-led guerillas will take over.

House Rules Committee Chairman Howard Smith of Virginia is quietly lining up House and Senate support for a new effort to enact into law HR-3, the Smith States' Rights bill, which he plans to re-introduce in the Congress shortly.

The Smith bill, which has twice been passed by the House but has died in the Senate each time, would bar courts from invalidating state laws under the preemption doctrine, unless Congress had stated specifically its intention to take over the field in question, or unless the state and a federal law were in irreconcilable conflict.

It would also give states erpress permission to pass and enforce sedition laws punishing subversive activities against the federal government.

The Smith bill has been endorsed by the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Association of Manufacturers, and committees of the American Bar Association and the National Association of Attorney General.

Principles are usually read, not lived.

What you do not expect does not disappoint you.

Record 1959 Taxes

The Internal Revenue Service reports that more taxpayers paid more income taxes on more 1959 earnings than ever before.

The report stated that the number of returns went up to 60,300,000 from 59,100,000 in 1959. Income increased to $305,800,000,000 from $281,200,000,000.

The increased amount of taxes paid was $24,600,000,000.

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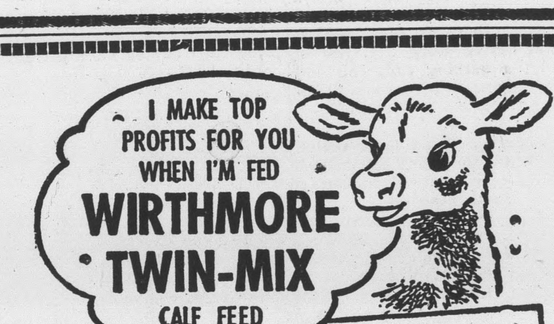

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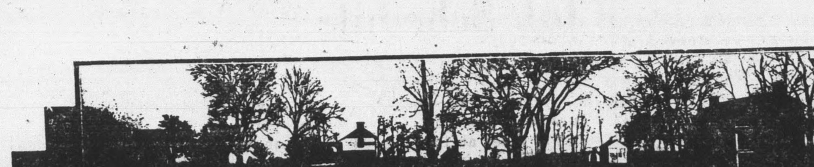

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1961 THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

Shopping At Home Is Always Best . . .

The dream of "Far Away Places has often captured the imagination of man. And indeed it has resuletd in many wonderful things. Just suppose Columbus had not had the spirit and the zest to make that trip into the Unknown! Who knows what lies at the Foot of The Rainbow! In old times, they said the grass was greener on the Other Side of the Fence!

But, we are banded together here in historic Appomattox to make a Way of Life in our Own Community.

We believe that it is to your advantage to join our community team. Surely, there is green grass, there is opportunity elsewhere, there is wonderful towns all over Great America, but would you not be doing a civic service by helping to build up YOUR HOME COMMUNITY?

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